

Rancho Bernardo Joint Traffic/Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes August 28, 2006
Prepared By George Cooke

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Co-chair Robin Kaufman. The following Committee members were present: Dick Katz (co-chair), Kathy Keehan, Andres Thomas, Alethea Altenbern, Jerry Coats, Richard House, Meera Varigonda, Patti Perna, Dick Walker, and George Cooke. Also present were Hal Altenbern (to speak on the Sav-on update) and Donna Hartings (Pomerado News). A large number of community residents were also in attendance. The meeting was held in the 2nd floor conference room at the San Diego National Bank.
2. The minutes from the July 24, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted. Thanks to Patti Perna for doing the minutes.
3. Residents Remarks – Speed Limit on Rancho Bernardo Road. Westwood resident Greg Birch raised the issue of traffic speeds on Rancho Bernardo Road west of West Bernardo Drive. The posted speed is 50 mph between West Bernardo Drive and Matinal Road, and he believes that speed is unsafe, particularly as the volume of traffic continues to increase to 4S Ranch. He asked the committee if there is any background on that issue, and what he can do about it. George will go through the archived issues log, and send any background information on the issue to Greg.
4. RB Trails V-Tech Signs – Ed Silva, representing the RB Trails Homeowners Association, had addressed the committee last month, and the issue was placed on this month's agenda, so residents from The Trails could be heard. At issue is a proposal to install a second V-Tech sign in The Trails, at their expense. There was a very large turnout of residents from The Trails, and there was considerable discussion of the issue. The committee wanted to know what the community's position was in The Trails, and had asked that notification be given to residents in The Trails so they could attend this meeting to give feedback. Robin reported that the HOA was in violation of City Code CVC 21465 (Unauthorized Traffic Devices) on the existing V-tech sign, and that they should get the City's blessing on that sign before installing a second. The first speakers were those OPPOSED to the signs. Ed Watson said that the speed signs are ineffective and he prefers 3-way stops. Karen Crowley reported that the first sign is in violation and is unsightly. She prefers stop signs and speed humps. She said that this is a Trails issue, and should be voted on there. Phil Stultz(?) reported that the Trails HOA Board should have polled the neighbors first. He said it's not their job; it's not a board issue. He said there were 50 signatures opposed to the signs, and that no official notice had been given. There was a meeting with Brian Maienschein's office two months ago, where it was stated that no v-tech sign would be effective with those narrow streets. Tom Colandrea said there was short notice on Saturday. The sign becomes transparent after people have driven by it a few times. He said we should

consider a moveable sign that could be placed in varying locations. He also said that placement of the sign should be supplemented with speed enforcement and issuance of tickets. Barbara Goldsman was also opposed. Check Kenny said the proposed sign is on his property (most affected). He is unconvinced that the v-tech signs are effective, and said that they're an eyesore. Georjean Maggio asked what measures have been taken for evaluation. David Thiele said he was opposed and that the signs would do better in front of Casa De Las Campanas. The next speakers were those residents IN FAVOR of the signs. Ed Silva is president of the HOA Board. He asked for clarification of what was stated incorrectly? He gave the following background – The Fire Department won't allow speed bumps. The board has been looking for ways to slow traffic. The City didn't want to do the signs. Bots dots would be too noisy. The board was looking for the best way to calm traffic in the community for safety. It is dangerous to walk on the narrow Trails streets. The poll was overwhelmingly in favor of the v-tech signs. They got the signs for half what the City charges. (At first, they didn't know the City even did the v-tech signs.) Wanted to get several poles and move the signs, but it's hard to align them. They are using Trails money to do what is needed in The Trails. There is a controller which can be downloaded for statistics, but the City wouldn't let them do that. He gave the equipment to the City, but they didn't use it. Maybe it down't look the best, but it's important for safety. They are currently filling out the forms so they can be compliant with the City (the installation specs are being conformed to). Dave DiPierro told them they had done a good job. Jim O'Grady said that he is one house from the sign, and that it's at least a partial solution. He likes it. Bill Glasser reported that he has lived in RB since 1969 and has been in The Trails for 23 years. He has been the Architectural Committee co-chair for 23 years and has been in touch with most of the 223 homes and receives daily complaints from residents, primarily on traffic problems. He said that 50 of the 223 are opposed, but the rest are in favor. Dean Parrod has three young kids who walk the neighborhood and it's dangerous with no sidewalks. There is speeding, and with the blind curves, they have to jump out of the way when they hear speeding cars coming. Safety is more important than aesthetics. The sign is working. Please give approval for the second sign. Chuck Kenny said that six months ago he purchase a radar gun. The average speed is in the 30's and some are in the 40's and 50's. The streets are used by kids and horses as their sidewalks. Safety is a primary concern. Bobby Ostler has a nine year old daughter and he feels intimidated when he hears a car coming. The sign helps even him to slow down by giving a reminder of awareness, and he feels that the signs do work. Tom Dole said the sign is effective. Judy Venn-Watson said that people drive too fast with their cell phones. The signs help. She also likes the idea of 3-way stops. Dick Warden complemented the board members for working hard to try to solve this problem. He said that the pioneers have arrows in their backs, but should be commended. Speed kills. If the signs are not aesthetically pleasing, let's just find a way to make them look better. It slows down the people who are conscientious. The Trails residents need to do some more self-policing, and overgrown landscaping needs to be fixed. Adam Barad

said he would feel safer with another sign. Steve Arnold (an HOA Board member) referenced a 2006 police survey indicating that most people agree that the signs do have an effect. He reviewed some speed statistics from a time when the police came out for enforcement. They said they cannot write a ticket without a 10 mph tolerance. Landscaping near the road belongs to the City, but it needs to be cleaned up. He doesn't care how it looks if it decreases speeding. The City gave them the v-tech information in the first place. Committee members then commented and asked some questions. Is there a formal vote with results in The Trails? Has the City studied the placement of the signs? Are there other traffic calming options? Many committee members commented, and many felt that the signs have some effect. Kathy Keehan asked if we have the before and after 85th percentile data to show effectiveness. She suggested getting a new poll with the specific proposal. George suggested having both sides participate in the wording on the poll. Hal Altenbern pointed out that modern cars run fast and quiet, so you don't realize how fast you're going. Myrna Rees and Meera Varigonda both stated that safety is paramount. The consensus was that the community should take a new poll, complete the paper work on the first sign, and have the specific location for the second sign identified. Kathy Keehan made a motion, seconded by George Cooke, to have the RB Traffic Committee not take an action tonight, and for The Trails group to (1) get the permits for the first sign, (2) request the traffic data, (3) determine the new location in connection with the City and homeowners, and (4) to take a poll with the homeowners with at least a 60% response. Following discussion, the motion passed 8 to 4.

5. Bicycle Lanes for Paseo Lucido – this topic will be deferred to next month's meeting, so Jim Denton can be there. (Parking removal would be required.)
6. Gregory Canyon Landfill – Robin Kaufman gave the update that the RB Planning Board discussed this and sent a letter expressing concern.
7. Bernardo Center Drive at Bernardo Plaza Court pedestrian crossing time – Robin gave an update, and there was some discussion on the idea of having a "pedestrian first" signal. There is a new Signals Engineer at the City, and Robin will follow up.
8. Savon update – Hal Altenbern went downtown to research the parcels involved and could not identify the permits. He has a proposed letter that he will send out to committee members by email for review.
9. Seven Oaks Update – Jerry Coats reported on the Seven Oaks Issues Log.
10. Bus Stop / Turn at Albertsons – Jerry Coats reported that the bus stops are being moved.

11. High Country West Incidents Log – No one was sure what this was, so it is being taken off our issues log. George reported that the HCW community is waiting for the all-way stop on Cloudcrest/Lofty Trail at Turtleback Lane to be installed.
12. Lomica V-tech sign update – the resident in front of the location of the proposed sign has objected, so there needs to be a discussion with the resident and the City to see if the objection at that location can be overcome.
13. Other Item – Westwood Parking Issue – Resident Jim Steinberg reported on the problem with overflow parking from the Waterbridge Condominiums on residential streets in Westwood, including Poblado and Botero. Jim is organizing a petition, and in the first hour collected 15 yes and 2 no for parking restrictions that would have no overnight parking from 2 am to 6 am. A motion was made by Patti Perna and seconded by Dick Katz to forward the Westwood City petition utilizing our normal procedures. The motion passed unanimously.
14. Resident Tom Reid presented a letter for a traffic calming proposal in Bernardo Heights. This will be put on next month's agenda.
15. Kathy Keehan asked that the following proposal be added to next month's agenda – No parking signs on the south side of Rancho Bernardo Road from the Remington Club to Albertsons.
16. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm. The next meeting will be at 7:00 PM, Monday, September 25, 2006, in the 2nd floor meeting room at the San Diego National Bank, located at 16789 Bernardo Center Drive.